THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): A main rocket launching station already exists in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh having been established by the Indian Space Research Organisation with the first launch carried out in October, 1971. The approved perspective plan for space research and development activities for the decade 1980—90 includes establishment of a new launch range, if necessary, in cooperation with other national agencies. Studies are underway in this regard.

Poverty Alleviation Programmes

1815. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the different poverty alleviation programmes which are under implementation;

(b) the details of funds allocated for the above under the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) whether there is any machinery for constantly monitoring the progress of implementation of the above programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The different poverty alleviation programmes under implementation are—Integrated Rural Development Programme, National Rural Employment Programme, and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme.

(b) The details of funds allocated for the above programmes during the Seventh Five Year Plan are as follows:—

Name of Programme	Amount allocated (Rs. in crores)
IRDP & Allied Programmes	2642·99
NREP	2487 47
RLEGP	1743 78

(c) The Department of Rural Development is constantly monitoring the implementation of these programmes. In addition, the physical targets and achievements are also being monitored by the Ministry of Programme Implementation under the Twenty Point Programme.

Shortage of Fuel Wood

1816. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in the Hindustan Times of 19th February, 1986 wherein it has been stated that fuel wood shortage by the turn of the present century in India is expected to be around 190 million tonnes; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir. The shortage of fuelwood in India by the turn of the present century is estimated, however, to be 190 million cubic metres and not 190 million tonnes.

(b) A massive afforestation programme to achieve an annual target of 5 million hectares by 1989-90 has been launched. To achieve this objective, an Action Plan has been prepared by the National Wastelands Development Board (NWDB), with

the approval of the National Land Use and Wastelands Development Council recently which involves a shift in policy, emphasis on decentralisation and increasing people's involvement in the afforestation programme. The key elements of the Action Plan are: decentralised people's nurseries, more of farm forestry and less of block plantations by government department, emphasis on regeneration of scrub forest area, including fodder development through tending and seeding, larger afforestation by the State Forest Development Corporations, captive plantations on wastelands by forest-based industries and strip plantations by the respective departments alongside railways, roads and canals. Industries would also be encouraged to develop fuelwood and fodder plantations on wasteland distant from habitats, with a need to develop fuelwood for community use as well as not to disturb existing community use.

In addition, efforts are being made to reduce fuelwood consumption through more efficient use and by increased utilisation of alternative sources of energy, such as:—

(1) promotion of bio-gas plants.

(2) promotion of solar cookers.

(3) introduction of fuel-efficient chulhas.

(4) development and promotion of fuel-efficient crematoria.

Encroachment on Reserve Forest Land in Kerala and other States

1817. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of encroachment in the reserve forest land in Kerala and other States in the country;

(b) whether Government have framed any scheme or guidelines for the States to evict such persons from the illegal possession of the reserve forest land in the interest of forest development and ecology;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Central Government propose to give financial assistance to the States to rehabilitate such persons after their eviction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Kerala has reported that estimated area under encroachments is 20805 hectares. Total area of forest reserve land under encroachment in other States and Union Territories excluding Sikkim and Mizoram is reported ot be 6.79,827 hectares.

(b) and (c) Guidelines have been issued to all States that an assessment of the extent of such encroachments be made and it be ascertained as to how this can be controlled.

(d) No, Sir.

1818. [Transferred to the 18th March, 1986].

Signal System and Middle Verges on road near Kalkaji Bus Depot

1819. SHRI (MOLANA) ASRARUL HAQ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that near the Kalkaji bus depot crossing and near J.K. Automobiles in A and B block (Road No. 2, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-II) no signal system and middle verges on road have been provided.

(b) whether it is also a fact that the absence of these provisions has led to many fatal accident, if so, the number of accidents in the last one year on these roads; and

(c) what steps have been taken to minimise such accidents in future by provision of middle verges and signal on the road?